

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1403

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY EG, JO

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PRESS ATTACKS EGYPT, SADAT-HUSSEIN
COMMUNIQUE

1. AFTER PERIOD OF RELATIVE CALM, IN EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS, TEMPERS IN TRIPOLI LEADERSHIP HAVE FLARED UP AGAIN, JUDGING FROM LIBYAN PRESS. TOP HEADLINE IN LIBYAN PAPERS JULY 22 IS, "EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERS ESCALATE THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST COLONEL QADHAFI ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN EGYPT". ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE REPRINTS PARTS OF TWO ARTICLES FROM EGYPTIAN PRESS, ONE BY MOUSSA SABRI DATED JULY 14 IN "AL AKHBAR", AND OTHER FROM "AL JUMHURIYAH" DATED JULY 15. ARTICLES ARE REPRINTED WITHOUT COMMENT, PRESUMABLY ON THEORY THAT BASENESS OF EGYPTIAN ATTACKS ON QADHAFI SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO EGYPTIAN CHARGES THAT QADHAFI TRIED TO SINK QE II HOWEVER, WHICH MUST BE HOT TO HANDLE FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION.

2. SECOND ARTICLE REFERS TO "AL AKHBAR'S" ACCOUNT JULY 19 OF MISSION TO WESTERN DESERT OF MAHMOUD ABU WAFIA, DESCRIBED AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF PEOPLES COUNCIL AND
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SADAT'S BROTHER-IN-LAW. IT CHARGES THAT SADAT SENT

ABU WAFIA FORTH AS PART OF ESCALATED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST QADHAFI, AND SUGGESTS SARCASTICALLY THAT SADAT IS TRYING TO EXPLOIT "MISFORTUNES" OF THE TRIBES, WHO LIVE IN "BACKWARDNESS AND NEGLECT", BY PROMISING THEM ECONOMIC HELP IN RETURN FOR POLITICAL HELP AGAINST QADHAFI. TOGETHER WITH REPORT IN EGYPTIAN PRESS THAT LIBYAN TRIBES IN CYRENAICA HAVE PROTESTED TO QADHAFI OVER RADIO ATTACKS ON EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB REGIMES (CAIRO 5281), THIS SEEMS TO BE EVIDENCE BOTH SIDES ARE WOOING BEDOUIN TRIBES IN AREA, WHO SPILL OVER ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER.

3. FINALLY, EDITORIAL IN TRIPOLI DAILY "FAJR AL JADID" ATTACKS SADAT-HUSSEIN JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS "LAST NAIL" IN COFFIN OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN

PARTICULARLY VIOLENT ATTACK EDITORIALIST, PRESUMABLY EXPRESSING OFFICIAL POLICY, DECLARES IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN STAND ON WHO REPRESENTS PALESTINIANS AS ANYTHING BUT "THE DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WILL OF THE ENEMY".

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